

# FRONT & CENTER

Providing News to Our Veterans

April 2011



## A STORY WORTH TELLING

Chuck Jennings enlisted in the U.S. Navy in the late 1960s during Vietnam. He traveled to the Mediterranean and Atlantic where he helped in the operating room onboard ship assisting the doctor. He was also on a guided missile cruiser. “My navy

experience – I loved what I did.” After serving for three years in the Navy, he went back to school, got married, and started working.

Unfortunately, tough times followed. Chuck couldn’t get a job for a few years and became deathly sick. His wife decided to bring him to VA Butler Healthcare. “I had no place else to go and they took me in.”

Chuck has been coming to VA Butler for his care ever since. “Butler has always been fantastic. They have a very dedicated staff here. It’s been that way for

as long as I can remember. It’s an excellent hospital.” Chuck stressed the importance of getting registered for VA care. “You never know what’s in your future, and I think it’s important to come in and register. The system is always here for the Veterans.”

Today Chuck also volunteers at VA Butler three days a week. “You get to interact with the Veterans. They’re some of the greatest people.” He’s been volunteering for about four years, and interviewing Veterans for the Veterans History Project (VHP) for about two years. VHP

collects and preserves personal accounts of U.S. Veterans so future generations may better understand the realities of war. “It doesn’t matter what you’ve done. It’s a story. And it’s worth telling,” Chuck said.

VA Butler has entered into a partnership with the Library of Congress and actively submits interviews and collected materials to VHP. For details about VHP contact Chuck Jennings at 724.287.3132. For volunteer opportunities at VA Butler contact Paula McCarl, Voluntary Services Coordinator, at 724.285.2575. ★

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Chuck Jennings

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...APRIL

- 4 U.S. and 11 other nations establish North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO] (1949)
- 6 U.S. enters World War I (1917)
- 9 Civil War ends (1865)
- 14 Paralyzed Veterans of America is established (1946) [With the Paralyzed Veterans of America Keystone Chapter, VA Pittsburgh will host the 31st National Veterans Wheelchair Games this August]
- 18 First air raid on mainland Japan during World War II occurs (1942)
- 30 The Fall of Saigon marks the end of the Vietnam War (1975)



**RELAX!** April 16th, 2011 is National Stress Awareness Day. Take this day as an opportunity to recognize stress in your life, and do something about it. Feeling stressed? VA Butler Healthcare is here to help. Call us toll free at 800.362.8262, ext. 5039!

Did you know? April 16 was designated as Stress Awareness Day because it is the day after taxes are due!



## WELCOME HOME...AND THANK YOU!

### Post Deployment Health Reassessment

**(O)**n April 17, VA Butler Healthcare is partnering with the Department of Defense (DOD) to host a Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA). The PDHRA will include approximately 125 soldiers serving in the Army National Guard. Recently it has proved very beneficial for VA facilities to host this event because it offers soldiers the opportunity to become comfortable and familiar with the VA facility,

receive information about VA benefits and services, and **guarantee enrollment**. *Transitioning home can be difficult, but we're here to help!*

Additional information for returning service members can be found at [www.oefoif.va.gov](http://www.oefoif.va.gov) or [www.butler.va.gov/freedom.asp](http://www.butler.va.gov/freedom.asp). You can also call VA Butler Healthcare's OEF/OIF Program Coordinator at 800.362.8262, ext. 2493.



*Soldiers complete the Post-Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA).*

### RETHGUAL SI EHT TSEB ENICIDEM!

**I**evah a doog hgual siht Lirpa Sloof Yad dna lla raey gno!  
Rethgual sexaler ruoy elohw ydob, stsoob ruoy enummi metsys, dna stcetorp eht trach. AV Reltub stnaw ot troppus ruoy doog htlaeh, epoh siht evag uoy a hgual!



**Yppah Lirpa Sloof!**  
(Happy April Fools)

We want to hear from you!  
Email [amanda.wilczynski@va.gov](mailto:amanda.wilczynski@va.gov) or [lauren.heiger@va.gov](mailto:lauren.heiger@va.gov) to share your story with us!

## APRIL IS...SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

*"It's time ... to get involved."*

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is the month dedicated to raising awareness about and preventing sexual violence. On Tuesday April 5 from 10:45 am to 12 pm, VA Butler Healthcare will be holding a Sexual Assault Awareness event for Veterans.

Join us for a presentation by the Victim Outreach Intervention Center (VOICE) to learn about what to do if you are assaulted, types of support available, and much more.



About 1 in 5 women and 1 in 100 men seen in VA medical centers nationwide respond "yes" when screened for Military Sexual Trauma (MST). VA Butler Healthcare provides free, confidential counseling and treatment for mental and physical health conditions related to MST.

Contact VA Butler's Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Coordinator at 724.477.5039.

**You can recover from the experience of trauma.  
We are here for you.**

VOICE: 724.283.8700 *Butler* • 724.352.3020 *Saxonburg*  
24-Hour Hotline: 800.400.8551 • [voiceforvictims.com](http://voiceforvictims.com)

## EVENTS

**5 Sexual Assault Awareness Event**  
Tuesday, April 5 • 10:45 am-12 pm  
VA Butler Healthcare Auditorium

**7 April Podcast • Agent Orange**  
Thursday, April 7 • 12-12:30 pm  
Chat link: [talkshoe.com/tc/85029](http://talkshoe.com/tc/85029)  
or Call in: 724.444.7444 (Call ID: 85029)



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